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RURAL AREAS  
DEVELOPMENT

# RAD NEWSLETTER

January 1967

FIELD "OUTREACH" FUNCTION ASSIGNED TO FHA

No. 82

Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman has announced that the field responsibilities of the Department's "outreach" function have been assigned to the Farmers Home Administration.

FHA will work through Technical Action Panels in full cooperation with Extension Service as it carries out the role of educational and organizational leadership.

Representatives of FHA serve as chairmen of the panels, and will form the administrative channel between State, area and county Technical Action Panels and the FHA office in Washington, which will work with the Washington staff of the Rural Community Development Service on outreach matters.

The change reemphasizes the panels as focal points for community action, and places responsibility on those who work with the panels to make rural people fully aware of existing services and to help them obtain whatever assistance they need.

The Extension Service continues to carry the responsibility for educational and organizational leadership. In Washington, the Federal Extension Service has been reorganized to have a division devoted exclusively to community development. Earl Pettyjohn has been named Director of the division.



The Rural Community Development Service in Washington also has been reorganized, with Kenneth Birkhead as its new Administrator.

## RC&D PROJECT BRINGS EMPLOYMENT, INCOME

In two years, the 25 sponsors of the Northern Rio Grande Resource Conservation and Development Project have set in motion measures that created 35,000 man-days of employment and brought additional income of \$398,000 to the four-county area.

The sponsors of the north-central New Mexico project have received 162 proposals from local people for such measures as marketing and processing facilities, income-producing recreation enterprises, flood-control and watershed-protection projects, community irrigation improvements, municipal recreation developments, access roads, expansion of native arts and crafts industries, and highway beautification.

Local people plan to carry out their own projects -- with technical, financial and long-term credit assistance from all available sources.

Project sponsors include the State of New Mexico, the counties of Taos, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe and Los Alamos, the municipalities of Santa Fe, Espanola and Taos, four Rural Areas Development associations, seven State agencies and commissions, the Northern Indian Pueblos Association, and five soil and water conservation districts.

In RC&D projects, the Soil Conservation Service assigns a project coordinator to work full-time with local sponsors. The sponsors, with the coordinator's help, survey their resources, analyze local development problems, and form a plan of action. The coordinator works with the sponsors to help them obtain whatever local, State, or Federal assistance they need.

Special RC&D funds may be used:

--For additional technical help to speed up soil surveys, and plan and apply conservation measures on individual operating units.

--To help finance structural measures for flood prevention, erosion or sediment control, irrigation, or drainage that will provide community or group benefits.

--To provide technical and loan assistance for community or group enterprises, such as recreation developments and plants for storage and processing of resource products.

#### UPPER VALLEY GETS WATER SYSTEM

Upper Lovelock Valley now has enough cool, clear water.

The agricultural area of Lovelock Valley, Nevada, is divided into upper and lower portions by the city of Lovelock. The city has had a good water system for years, and the lower valley got a water system several years ago with the help of a loan from the Farmers Home Administration.



But upper valley residents depended for years on wells as their source of water.

Three years ago, talk and work blossomed into a full-scale operation aimed at bringing high-quality water to the upper valley.

The system was dedicated in June. Thirty-three miles of pipeline were tied into Oriana, Nevada, well water at the city reservoir five miles north of Lovelock. A total of 23 miles of the line in loop patterns reached users throughout the upper valley. Pipes were run to private property boundaries, from where landowners ran pipes to their homes, adding the other 10 miles to the system.

The system cost \$280,000. The Cooperative Extension Service helped citizens form a nonprofit organization, the Valley Water Association, to build and operate the system; the Soil Conservation Service provided preliminary technical help; and the Farmers Home Administration provided a loan of \$208,000.

The system not only takes water to the upper valley residents, but also provides the city of Lovelock with a separate and alternate water source to increase water and pressure input.



## PEOPLE IN NEW AREAS TO BENEFIT UNDER FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

Secretary Freeman has announced that low-income families in 62 new areas in 13 States will be able to buy additional food under the expanding Food Stamp Program.

These November openings brought the program to a total of 394 areas in 40 States and the District of Columbia. Although 62 new openings in a month is a record, openings in coming months are expected to exceed that number.

The new areas are among 402 localities designated September 10 to start Food Stamp programs during this fiscal year.

Under the Food Stamp Program, low-income families certified by State welfare agencies may exchange the amount of money they normally spend on food for coupons worth more than they paid. The additional amount enables them to buy more and better food for improved diets. The coupons are spent like cash at retail food stores authorized to accept them by the USDA's Consumer and Marketing Service.



## FIRST 1967 GREENSPAN PROJECT TO HELP FLORIDA COUNTY

The first Greenspan agreement under the 1967 program will help Lafayette County, Florida, buy farmland for conversion to an outdoor recreation area.

Greenspan is part of the Department of Agriculture's Cropland Adjustment Program to shift land out of plentiful crops and into open space, public recreation, wildlife habitat, natural beauty, or to other uses which control air and water pollution.

The Florida county is buying 533 acres of land, of which 249 acres is cropland, to convert into a general recreation facility with hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, and other related recreational activities. The land includes a mile of frontage on the Suwannee River. Purchase price is \$90,000. The Federal grant is for \$29,481, plus cost-share aid of \$5,803 for establishing conservation uses on designated acreage.



State and local officials, farmers and other persons interested in details of the 1967 Greenspan program should contact their local county or State Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office.

Under an earlier Greenspan agreement, the city of Horicon, Wisconsin, received a Federal grant of \$9,441 toward purchase of land valued at \$32,000 for conversion into an 18-hole golf course and a boat marina.

The USDA also is providing \$3,361 in cost-share assistance for use in planting grass on the golf course fairways.

The city is buying 237 acres of farmland, of which 59.3 acres is considered cropland to be diverted under the agreement.

## EX-FARMER BENEFITS FROM CONVERTED LAND

Former dairy farmer J. C. Sharpe is working fewer hours and making more money now by operating "Dizzy-Land," a 250-acre farm he has converted into a recreation center at LaFayette, Alabama.

Mr. Sharpe, a cooperater with the Piedmont Soil Conservation District, was a row-crop farmer and dairyman for 21 years. In 1954, he converted his Chambers County farm into a recreation center.

Today he has seven ponds totaling 50 acres of water for fishing and swimming. He received help from the Soil Conservation Service in planning, designing and supervising construction of the ponds.

He also has a 75-acre area consisting of a golf course, playground, picnic tables, concession stand and a meeting place for clubs and other organizations. There are two softball fields, facilities for horseshoes, badminton and shuffleboard, and three cabins which will sleep up to 20 persons each.



## PROGRAM PROVIDES WORK, TRAINING

Sixty low-income rural people, most of them "chronic unemployed," are learning new job skills and getting a basic education while they clean up and beautify Holly Springs National Forest, Mississippi.

The 60 are employed on a Nelson Amendment training project. The trainees are paid \$1.25 an hour by the Office of Economic Opportunity.

One-third of their time is spent learning how to read and write, and the other two-thirds on work-experience projects.

Most of the trainees are 45 years old or older, and are usually in generally poor physical condition before working out-of-doors in the National Forest.

When the training period ends, the State employment office will try to place them in jobs.

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